

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1868

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: QADHAAFI VISIT TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 1842

1. JUNE 23 CAIRO PRESS CONTAINS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT QADHAAFI ARRIVE IN CAIRO JUNE 22 IN COMPANY OF ASU FIRST SECRETARY HAFIZ GHANEM AND ASHRAF MARWAN (BOTH OF WHOM DEPARTED TWO DAYS EARLIER FOR MERGE MEETINGS IN TRIPOLI AND, PROBABLY, TO ARRANGE QADHAAFI'S TRIP). REPORTEDLY QADHAAFI WILL TRAVEL TO ALEXANDRIA JUNE 24 WITH SADAT BY SPECIAL TRAIN, STOPPING AT VARIOUS GOVERNORATE CAPITALS EN ROUTE.

2. JUNE 23 CAIRO PRESS CONTAINS ANOTHER NOTE ON
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EGYPT/ LIBYA MERGER PLANNING, REPORTING THAT SUPREME MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE SET UP JUNE 21 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HATEM TO DISCUSS EGYPTIAN/ LIBYAN UNITY WILL HOLD FIRST MEETING JUNE 23 WITH ATTENDANCE OF GHANEM AND MARWAN. ACCORDING TO AHMED, COMMITTEE WILL CONCLUDE ACTIVITIES WITHIN A FEW DAYS WITH DRAFTING OF WORKING PAPER CONTAINING RESULTS OF MEETINGS OF SEPARATE MERGER COMMITTEES. PAPER WILL THEN BE PRESENTED BY HATEM AT NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF SADAT AND QADHAFI AT BEGINNING OF JULY.

3. COMMENT: REFTEL NOTED THAT EGYPTIANS FINALLY SEEMED TO BE KNUCKLING DOWN TO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN UNITY DECLARATION. QADHAFI'S UNANNOUNCED TRIP COULD WELL BE ONE RESULT. DURING HIS PREVIOUS VISITS TO EGYPT (LAST REPORTED TRIP WAS IN EARLY FEBRUARY), LIBYAN LEADER HAS SPENT LITTLE TIME OUTSIDE OF CAIRO AND MANY INFLUENTIAL EGYPTIANS BELIEVE HE HAS VIRTUALLY NO UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR VIEWPOINT. THIS IS BASICALLY WHAT MUSA SABRI AND SALAH GAWDAT (REFTEL) WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT EARLIER THIS WEEK. THEY WERE SAYING THAT QADHAFI SHOULD, BEFORE MERGER, REACH AN UNDERSTANDING AND ACCOMMODATION WITH BASIC GOAL POSITIONS. SADAT APPEARS TO HAVE INVITED QADHAFI TO EGYPT AT LEAST PARTLY FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO TAKE LIBYAN LEADER ON A LONG, SLOW TRAIN TRIP THROUGH EGYPTIAN HEARTLAND, TO VISIT VARIOUS GOVERNORATES, MEET EGYPTIANS, HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY AND, IN PROCESS, GAIN SOME UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS QADHAFI'S PARTICULAR BRAND OF NATIONALISM.

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